

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 10812 220835Z

10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SAM-01 SSC-01 /050 W

----- 122639

R 220748Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2953

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, BD, PINR

SUBJ: PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH

1. RETIRED CIVIL SERVANT AND ONETIME WEST PAKISTAN
AWAMI LEAGUE POLITICIAN MOHAMMED KHURSHID
HAS CONFIRMED TO AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR HERE
PRESS REPORTS THAT HE HAS BEEN NAMED FIRST PAK
AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH. WE ARE UNCERTAIN
WHETHER BDG HAS YET GRANTED KHURSHID AGREEMENT.
HE TOLD AUSTRALIANS THAT HE EXPECTS TO GET TO
DACCA AROUND MID-DECEMBER, SAME TIME HE ANTICIPATES
BANGALEE AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE ZAHIRUDDIN WILL
REACH ISLAMABAD.

2. REASONS FOR KHURSHID'S SELECTION BECOME
EVIDENT FROM READING OF HIS CURRICULUM VITAE. A
NATIVE OF RAWALPINDI (BDG HAD MADE IT CLEAR TO
PAKS IT DID NOT WANT A BANGALEE EMIGRE ASSIGNED),
HE HAD CLOSE ASSOCIATIONS WITH EAST PAKISTAN,
INITIALLY AS DISTRICT COMMISSIONER SYLHET,
COMMISSIONER RAJSHAHI AND DACCA, AND SENIOR
MEMBER OF THE EAST PAKISTAN PROVINCIAL BOARD

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OF REVENUE IN THE 1940'S AND 1950'S, THEN, AFTER

HIS RETIREMENT, AS AN AWAMI LEAGUER AND UNSUCCESSFUL
AL CANDIDATE FOR A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEAT IN
THE 1970 ELECTIONS. (BETWEEN THESE TWO
STAGES OF HIS CAREER, KHURSHID ROSE TO THE SENIOR
RANKS OF THE PRESTIGIOUS CIVIL SERVICE OF
PAKISTAN--CSP--AND HELD SUCH KEY POSITIONS
AS DEFENSE SECRETARY, FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
SECRETARY, AND CHIEF SECRETARY OF WEST PAKISTAN.)
AS A PUNJAB AWAMI LEAGUE LEADER AND WEST PAKISTAN
ESTABLISHMENT FIGURE, HE PLAYED A ROLE IN THE
UNSUCCESSFUL EARLY 1971 NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN
YAHYA KHAN AND MUJIBUR RAHMAN, VISITING DACCA
IN THAT CONNECTION JUST BEFORE THE PAK ARMY
CRACKDOWN THERE.

3. KHURSHID IS 68 AND ENTERED THE ASSAM CADRE
OF THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE IN 1932. HE IS
MARRIED TO AN ENGLISHWOMAN WHO WE UNDERSTAND
WILL NOT INITIALLY ACCOMPANY HIM TO DACCA.
BYROADE

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